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Group Art Unit: 2833

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claims 3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 1-12 stand objected to as containing a limitation that is confusing and misleading.

The language in claims 1 and 7 concerning the potential for interruption of electrical connectivity has been amended to remove the grounds for objection.

Claims 2, 4, 8, and 10 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, and 12 remain unamended. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended, and claims 13-19 have been added.

Applicant traverses the rejections, and submits that claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, and 11-19 are allowable over the cited prior art, as explained herein. No new matter has been added by the foregoing amendment, full support therefor being shown in the drawings and specification as filed. All claims remaining in the application are believed to now be in condition for allowance.

Further examination and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,096,431 to Byrne. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention is not anticipated under §102 unless each and every element of the claimed invention is found in the prior art. *Hybritech, Inc. v. Monoclonal Antibodies, Inc.*, 231 USPQ 81, 90 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

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Byrne '431 discloses a flexible jumper comprising a linear, metallic strip. One end of the metallic strip is adapted for engagement with a first circuit selector; the other end of the metallic strip is adapted for engagement with a second circuit selector. Neither end has a U-shaped portion, and neither end is mounted to a power terminal assembly as described in the application under examination.

Claims 2 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice, thus rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to require a strap-like flexible jumper having a first end adapted to be connected to a movable circuit selector and a second end having a U-shaped portion, the U-shaped portion having at least one leg positioned adjacent to and mounted to at least one electrical terminal. This structure is not disclosed in Byrne '431. Thus, amended claims 1 and 7 are not anticipated by Byrne '431 because each and every element of amended claims 1 and 7 is not found in Byrne '431.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from amended claim 1. Thus, claims 5 and 6 are not anticipated by Byrne '431. Claims 11 and 12 depend from amended claim 7. Thus, claims 11 and 12 are not anticipated by Byrne '431.

For the above reasons, claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 11, and 12 are allowable. Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12, and the allowance of claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 11, and 12.

Claims 1, 4, 7, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,595,495 to Johnson et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Claims 4 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice, thus rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Johnson '495 discloses wire connectors for a receptacle unit comprising a portion of a low-voltage switching system. Johnson '495 does not disclose strap-like connectors.

The structure of the flexible jumper described in amended claims 1 and 7, as explained above, is not disclosed in Johnson '495. Thus, amended claims 1 and 7 are not anticipated by Johnson '495 because each and every element of amended claims 1 and 7 is not found in Johnson '495. Consequently, amended claims 1 and 7 are allowable.

Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 7, and 10, and the allowance of amended claims 1 and 7.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Byrne '431. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3 and 9 depend from amended claims 1 and 7, respectively, and require that the flexible jumper comprise copper, copper alloy, brass, or aluminum. As discussed above, because amended claims 1 and 7 describe a jumper configuration that is not disclosed in Byrne '431, the utilization of copper, copper alloy, brass, or aluminum in Byrne '431 would not equal the device of claims 3 and 9. Thus, claims 3 and 9 are not unpatentable over Byrne '431, and are allowable.

Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 9, and the allowance of claims 3 and 9.

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CONCLUSION

If there are any outstanding issues which the Examiner feels may be resolved by way of telephone conference, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned to resolve these issues. Early notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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